



REGULAR MEETING
Minutes for
Wednesday, February 25, 2004
4:00 P.M. – 5th Floor Large Conference Room
and
5:30 P.M. - Art Pick Council Chambers
3900 Main Street, Riverside, CA

WORKSHOP – 4:00 P.M.

Roll Call

Present: Commissioners Brewer, Davidson, Gardner, Howe, Huerta (4:49), O'Meara (4:45), Percy, and Ward

Absent: Commissioners Garcia
Alternates Corral and Quinto

Public Comment

Mary Shelton

Ms. Shelton said it was good to have this meeting. She commented on the division that arose during process of choosing the type of oversight body for the city. She noted that the model chosen was not one of the three choices on the table.

Ralph Avila

Mr. Avila said that he would not submit papers to the CPRC, but that he would submit papers against RPD outside the country, if necessary.

Workshop

Panelists Alfredo Figueroa, David St. Pierre, Maureen Kane, and Dr. Jesse Wilson spoke about whether or not the Commission is completely fulfilling its role and what it can do to improve.

Alfredo Figueroa

- Wanted to develop trust between the community and police department
- Knew from beginning it would be a long process; a trial and error process
- Wanted an executive director who had been involved in the process
- Those wanting to end the Commission don't really know what's going on
- Good that the Commission is developing, changing

- Intent was to have common individuals who aren't officers, who listen to what the community has to say
- Feels Commission is living up to expectations
- Police officers thought Commission was being formed to keep police chief from doing his job

David St. Pierre

- Hears that it's still not as transparent as he'd hoped it would be
- Public relations – getting the word out – is important in keeping the Commission viable
- Important to let the community know what the Commission is doing
- There needs to be more outreach
- Wonders if changes with RPD are because of the Commission or the new police chief
- Commission is asking same questions the forming committee asked; commissioners are asking the right questions
- Build relationships with the community

Maureen Kane

- Commission hasn't grown as much as she'd hoped
- Had hoped Commission would have a major impact as a place where citizens could go with concerns; saw Commission as an opportunity for community policing
- RPD is not using the Commission as much as she'd hoped
- Doesn't hear anything about the Commission
- Doesn't think Commission is being used for the purpose it was created
- RPD isn't RPOA
- Frustrated by lack of outreach; Commission has to make the effort to speak to the community
- Commission not created to be a watchdog of Internal Affairs
- Feels the establishment of the Commission is the reason the State Attorney General didn't take over the RPD
- The Commission was not created to be an adversarial body

Jesse Wilson

- Wasn't optimistic about what would happen, but feels Commission has had a positive effect
- Hoped there would be a more proactive relationship with RPD
- Commission needs to find ways to get commissioners into community; what's being said in meeting needs to get out to the community

Councilmember Dom Betro spoke briefly to the Commission saying that he is very supportive of the Commission and will be glad to help at the Council level.

Closed Session – Case Reviews

Due to time constraints, there was no case review.

The Commission recessed at 5:42 p.m. to reconvene in the Council Chambers at 5:52 p.m.

OPEN SESSION – 5:52 P.M.

**The following proceedings have been digitally recorded.
For copies, please call the CPRC office at (909) 826-5509.**

Chairman Gardner led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Gardner asked Ms. Sherron to confirm commissioner attendance.

Roll Call

Present: Commissioners Brewer, Davidson, Gardner, Howe, Huerta (4:49), O'Meara (4:45), Percy, and Ward
Alternates Corral and Quinto

Absent: Commissioners Garcia

Approval of Minutes

After discussion, Commissioner Ward moved to delay approval the minutes for the January regular meeting to correct make corrections to his statement. Commissioner Percy seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimously.

Commissioner Huerta moved to approve the minutes for the February 11 workshop meeting. Commissioner Percy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director's Report & Comments

Mr. Williams said that it was Commissioner Howe's last CPRC meeting and that he would be missed.

Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner Davidson said that Commissioner Howe was an asset to the Commission and that he would be missed.

Commissioner Howe noted that he was the first chair. Some of his concerns are not-sustained cases, officers are not turning on their tape recorders, citizens who file false complaints – he feels something should be done about it, and the longevity of the Commission. He feels the Commission will be done away with or its budget will be cut severely. He noted that the Tyisha Miller incident was not catalyst for this commission, but that there were a number of incidents over the years. He feels that if the Commission is done away with, it will affect the minority community who already feel they are not getting a fair shake, and that would make suspicions will be even deeper. Budget cuts will affect the Commission's ability to do its work. He doesn't think the State Attorney General would appreciate the dissolution of the Commission. He closed by saying he enjoyed working with the other commissioners and that he appreciates their work.

Chairman Gardner said it had been an honor and privilege to work with Commissioner Howe and thanked him for his service, noting that it was a major contribution to Riverside.

Chairman Gardner said that he had given the commissioners the unedited version of his article that had been published in the editorial section of Sunday's Press-Enterprise.

Commissioner Percy noted that Commissioner Ward had a valid point regarding the minutes being too synopsisized and suggested that commissioners be given copies of the meeting recordings so they could listen to them and clarify points of note for the minutes, if necessary.

Commissioner Huerta noted that at the start of meetings audience members should be informed on how to speak to Commission.

Public Comments

Ralph Avila

Mr. Avila said he had had problems in the past with minutes not being accurate.

Mary Shelton

Ms. Shelton said she found the workshop to be very helpful and informative. She said she was pleased with comments made by panelists. She said the upcoming meeting with police chief will be helpful. She said it is very important to continue with workshops and outreach.

McComb Case

After brief discussion, the discussion of this case for the development of the public report was rescheduled for the March regular meeting.

Review & Discussion of the CPRC Officer Election Process

Chairman Gardner noted that commissioners should have received a ballot. He asked that any commissioner wanting to their change ballot could do so but to get the ballots turned in so the votes could be tallied for announcement at the March 17 meeting.

CPRC Annual Report

Mr. Williams advised the Commission that staff was wrapping up 2003 annual report process. He said that the format is different to try to make the information more meaningful. He asked that the commissioners a look at the charts and graphs. He asked that the commissioners alternates review their biographies and advise staff any changes. He also asked that they review the Trends and Patterns. He would like to get input from everyone, include all suggestions, and then have the Commission vote on what to include or exclude. If there are any suggestions regarding wording or anything else, he asked that the information be given to staff by March 10 so that the next draft could be presented at March 17 meeting. He advised that the report needs to be ready for final approval at the March regular meeting.

Committee Reports

A) Outreach Committee – Commissioner Percy, Chair

- wants to set up a meeting for scheduling outreach starting in April
- make a speaking list to set and schedule meetings

B) HRC / CPRC Ad Hoc Committee

Chairman Gardner said that the Assistant City Manager had nothing to do with canceling the HRC / CPRC Ad Hoc meeting. She had indicated to HRC staff that she was in process of drafting the response to the CPRC's request for information on how often the City Manager's office agrees with its decisions as she thought it might be helpful to the HRC / CPRC effort. She was unaware that a meeting was scheduled or that her comment would result in a meeting being cancelled or postponed.

The Commission adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


PHOEBE SHERRON
Sr. Office Specialist